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The Honorable George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

October 19, 1976

Attention: Freedom of Information Officer

Dear Mr. Director:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, as amended, (5 U.S.C. Sec. 552) on behalf of my client the American Palestine Committee.

I request a copy of each communication, document, memorandum, memorandum of conversation, or other material in the files of the Central Intelligence Agency relating directly or indirectly to the attack on the USS LIBERTY on June 8, 1967. The period of time covered in this request would begin in May 1967 when the LIBERTY was ordered to leave its post off the coast of West Africa and proceed to the Eastern Mediterranean. Documents, memoranda, and communications which relate to the LIBERTY incident which may be dated prior to May are also covered in this request, however.

To enable the Agency in its search for the full documentation of this incident, I enclose copies of two articles by Anthony Pearson concerning the attack on the LIBERTY which appeared in Penthouse magazine. There are frequent references in these articles to the activities of the CIA and to conversations in which CIA personnel participated.

The amended Freedom Of Information Act provides that if some parts of the material requested are exempt from release, reasonably segregable portions shall be provided. If for some reason portions of the material which is now ten years old are determined to be exempt under provisions of the Act, please inform me which material you believe is so exempt, and why.

I am prepared to pay reasonable costs for locating the material requested and reproducing it. The amended Act permits the waiver of fees if found in the public interest. I hope the agency will make that finding as I believe the public has a right to know the full facts relating to the attack on the American naval vessel, the LIBERTY, which resulted in a heavy loss of life.

As provided in the amended Act, I will expect to receive a reply within ten working days. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please phone me at my office.

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page two.

The Department of the Navy has provided me with most of the proceedings of the Naval Board of Inquiry in this case, but it is clear that those proceedings did not consider the foreign policy implications of the incident, which I now seek.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carl Marcy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "C" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carl Marcy

Enc. Articles by Anthony Pearson

THE ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

During the Six-Day War of 1967 a U.S. spy ship was attacked—in international waters and with devastating effect—by Israeli planes and torpedo boats. Although Israel claimed the attack was a mistake and the United States publicly accepted this explanation, both parties knew it was a lie. Here is the true story of what happened on that day—and why it happened.

BY ANTHONY PEARSON

Daybreak of June 8, 1967, was one of those mornings when the sunrise came vivid and warm, when there was little wind, and the sounds of battle had faded during the very last hours of darkness into an almost silent dawn. This was the third morning of the third Arab-Israeli war, which had begun at 7:45 A.M. on June 5 with the destruction of the Egyptian Air Force by Israeli planes.

By June 8, the war correspondents who had witnessed the dramatic capture of the Old City of Jerusalem and who had followed the Israeli paratroopers against the Jordanian Legion were all beginning to appreciate the efficient tactical and destructive power of Moshe Dayan's war machine. The battles had been land fought. The Egyptians had concentrated their warships in the Red Sea to support the blockade of the Straits of Tiran. The Russian Navy had a strong presence in the Mediterranean, but Soviet interference was blocked by the American Sixth Fleet, which had moved closer to the theater of war some two days before the fighting actually began.

Probably the heaviest close-order battles had been fought in the previous two days as the Israelis threw their crack paratroopers against the Jordanian Legion. On June 7, Jerusalem fell and by ten o'clock that night, the conquest of Jordan was complete. It was an amazing achievement of arms. We correspondents who had followed the Israeli soldiers through it could only marvel.

There were questions, of course. On June 8, as the Israeli push consolidated the conquest of the West Bank, I wondered, as did many other correspondents, why the Jordanian Legion had continued to fight in what was so clearly a lost cause. At the time, the answer was known only to officials at the highest levels of the Israeli and American governments. The Israelis, of course, were on the scene. The Americans received their information from a communications ship, the U.S.S. *Liberty*—whose fantastic intelligence-gathering capability was soon to be her undoing.

On the morning of June 8, the *Liberty* was steaming slowly off the Sinai Peninsula in a calm blue sea. The *Liberty* was no fighting ship. She was a converted civilian freighter, built in the late 1940's, but faster than most ships of her class (her top capability being eighteen knots), and armed with a complicated system of radio antennae including a "Big Ear" sonar-radio listening device with a clear capability range of over five hundred miles.

On both the forecastle and the deckhouse at the of the bridge she

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